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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

FEBRUARY 9, 1857.

Mr. MALLORY, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted a report, (No. 367,) accompanied by the following bill; which was read and passed to a second reading.

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**A BILL**

To authorize the construction of an armed steamer for the protection of American commerce in the China seas.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That the Secretary of the Navy be authorized and required to  
4       construct, in such manner as to him may seem expedient, an  
5       armed steamer, not exceeding a burden of five hundred tons,  
6       suitable for protecting American lives and property from  
7       piratical aggressions in the shallow waters on the coasts and  
8       rivers of China, and that one hundred and twenty thousand  
9       dollars be appropriated for this purpose, out of any money in  
10      the treasury not otherwise appropriated.